

**VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL**

William Earl Thrift, Jr.  
Managing Member  
San Jacinto River Fleet, LLC  
770 Rals Drive  
Onalaska, TX 77360

Re: Operations at the Big Star Barge & Boat Co., Inc. ("Big Star") Property located at 18001 East Freeway Channelview, TX 77530

Dear Mr. Thrift,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently notified you regarding our concerns about the tugboats and barges operating in the San Jacinto River near the Big Star property. As you may be aware of, the Big Star property is located approximately 800 feet to 900 feet northwest of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site (Site), where a cover consisting of rocks and other materials has been placed over the waste pits and various remedial activities are ongoing.

The prop-wash being generated as the tugboats move the barges is a concern for several reasons. Dioxin has been detected in the river sediments in this area and the tugboat operations have the potential for re-suspension and mobilization of the contaminated sediments, which may worsen the problem of contamination of fish and crab tissues in the area. In addition, should the tugboats come too close to the rock-covered waste pits, their operation may result in a loss of integrity of the cover and corresponding release of additional contaminated material.

The EPA's intent is to ensure that you are aware of the Site conditions. Moreover, if future activities contribute to or exacerbate the contamination at the Site, then Superfund liability may result. The EPA invites you to a meeting at our Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas regarding the Site conditions and river operations in the area. Please let me know your availability for a meeting within the next month regarding this matter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (214) 665-8318 or via email at [miller.garyg@epa.gov](mailto:miller.garyg@epa.gov), or our attorney, Jessica Hernandez, Office of Regional Counsel at (214) 665-8384 or via email at [hernandez.jessica@epa.gov](mailto:hernandez.jessica@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

Gary Miller P.E.  
Remedial Project Manager

cc: Jay M. Roberts (Big Star Barge & Boat Company, Inc.)  
Garry McMahan (POHA)  
Brian Darnell (Vice President & Facility Security Officer, San Jacinto River Fleet)  
William L. H. Morgan, Jr. (Attorney & Counselor at Law)

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